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weaker images for exact measurement. The diameter of the smallest star-discs should not exceed  $1''.5$  or  $2''.0$ . The corresponding images of the asteroid are respectively a trail, and an image which is not distinguishable from a disc, and which, in the subsequent measurement of the plate, is referred to the short-exposure images of the stars. The trails serve for the accurate orientation of the plate.

On a photograph of the asteroid (439) *Ohio*, made on the night of December 27, 1899, and measured by Mr. CODDINGTON, there are eleven catalogue-stars. The mean position of the asteroid, at the mean time of exposure,  $13^h 10^m 35^s$  P. S. T., is R. A. =  $7^h 27^m 42^s.221$ ; Decl. =  $-6^\circ 9' 26''.79$ .

Comparison of the mean with the individual measures gives the following residuals (Mean - Obs.):

Comparison-Star.	Residual, R. A.	Residual, Decl.
DM. — $5^\circ 2165$	— $0''.068$	— $0''.56$
— 6 2167	— $0.054$	+ $0.73$
— 6 2162	— $0.030$	+ $0.68$
— 6 2184	+ $0.056$	+ $0.56$
— 6 2166	+ $0.064$	— $0.97$
— 6 2153	+ $0.039$	— $0.27$
— 6 2156	+ $0.003$	+ $0.44$
— 6 2158	— $0.056$	— $0.07$
— 6 2146	+ $0.025$	+ $0.31$
— 6 2150	— $0.038$	+ $0.04$
— 6 2185	— $0.051$	— $0.90$

The probable error of the mean is, therefore, in R. A.  $\pm 0''.010$ ; in Decl.  $\pm 0''.12$ . It will be seen that this result is comparable with the best measurement by visual methods, J. E. K.

#### THE CROCKER-LICK OBSERVATORY ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

By the generosity of Mr. WILLIAM H. CROCKER, of San Francisco, the Lick Observatory will be able to send a party to Georgia, to observe the total solar eclipse of May 28th. Only two observers, Messrs. W. W. CAMPBELL and C. D. PERRINE, will be sent out from the Observatory; but several European astronomers have expressed a desire to join the party, and similar requests have also been received from astronomers connected with American colleges which do not intend to send out expeditions of their own.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the indebtedness of the Lick Observatory to Mr. CROCKER for his generous assist-

ance. It is especially gratifying to the members of the Observatory staff that this practical token of appreciation and confidence comes from a life member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and a prominent citizen of our own State.

The instrumental equipment of the expedition will be quite complete. The principal instrument for photographing the corona will be the five-inch telescope of forty feet focal length, used by the Lick Observatory parties in South America and India. For photographing the corona on a smaller scale there will be several cameras of from five to six inches aperture and others of smaller size. One slit spectrograph, and two objective spectrographs, arranged to give a continuous record of the changing spectrum at the beginning and end of totality, are also included in the equipment. Observations of contacts will be made.

Any observers having experience in astronomical or physical work, who wish to join the party at their own expense, like the gentlemen referred to farther above, are invited to communicate with the Director of the Lick Observatory before April 20th, and after that date with Professor W. W. CAMPBELL, Lick Observatory Eclipse Expedition, Atlanta, Georgia.

JAMES E. KEELER.

ELEMENTS OF COMET *a* 1900 (GIACOBINI).

This comet was discovered by GIACOBINI at Nice, on January 31st, the position of discovery being R. A.  $2^h 57^m 44^s$ , Decl.  $-7^\circ 55'$ . The first accurate position received at the Lick Observatory was that of February 3d, obtained by JAVELLE at Nice. After the receipt of the announcement of discovery the weather at Mount Hamilton was stormy, and only cleared when the Moon was too near the comet's place to warrant a search. The first observation obtained here was on February 16th, and the next on the 21st. From these three observations I have deduced the following parabolic elements:—

$$\begin{array}{l} T = 1900, \text{ April } 29.0781, \text{ G. M. T.} \\ \left. \begin{array}{l} \omega = 24^\circ \quad 36' \quad 56''.6 \\ \Omega = 40 \quad 24 \quad 38.8 \\ i = 146 \quad 25 \quad 22.2 \end{array} \right\} 1900.0 \\ \log q = 0.123476 \end{array}$$

Residuals Obs.—Comp.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Delta \lambda' \cos \beta' & - 0''.4 \\ \Delta \beta' & + 0.1 \end{array}$$